Since earliest recorded history, wind power has been used to move ships, grind grain, and pump water. Today, wind power is also being used to provide electricity to homes, schools, businesses, and entire communities. More than half the United States have wind resources that could support the development of utility-scale wind power plants.

Green Power

"Green Power" is power produced by renewable or environmentally friendly energy sources, as distinct from power produced by fossil fuel, nuclear, and other types of generators. Customers can arrange to purchase a certain amount of "Green Power" (actual energy, in kilowatt-hours) per month, for which they commonly pay a small premium to completely or partly offset any higher cost of renewable power sources. The policy of transferring these costs to Green Power customers is called "Green Pricing."

Available Green Power Programs

Lincoln Electric Systems (LES) Renewable Energy Program

Thanks to the support of customers, LES completed construction of its first wind turbine generator near Lincoln in December 1998. A second wind turbine generator was constructed in October 1999. To date, the utility has received customer commitments for about 2300, 100-kilowatt hour (kWh) monthly blocks of power, for which it charges a rate premium of $.043/kWh based on a federal energy credit of $.017 per kilowatt hour.

LES is still about 500 blocks short of fully subscribing the second turbine. All LES customersæboth residential and nonresidentialæhave the opportunity to apply to participate in this program. And, your contribution as a participant in LES' Renewable Energy Program may be a tax deductible charitable contribution. Check with your tax consultant.

Nebraska Public Power District Prairie Power Program

The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) is offering its customers a voluntary program through which they can contribute to a utility-managed fund for new renewables development. Participation in the program will require a minimum contribution of $6.00 per month and business participation will be encouraged. Your donation and support will go toward the construction of wind turbines and other renewable energy resources. You will be helping improve environmental quality in Nebraska for future generations. You will also receive a Prairie Power bumper sticker to encourage your neighbors to participate.

Why Purchase Green?

As Nebraskans, we are blessed with fresh air, clean water, and land rich in wildlife and natural beauty. This is the legacy we hope to pass to future generations. As Nebraskans, we should strive to seek out ever cleaner, ever "greener" sources of energy. "Green" means developing sources of renewable energy. "Green" means generating environmentally friendly power. "Green" refers to our commitment to protect Nebraska's natural resources by relying on limitless, natural energy alternatives.

What is the installed wind energy capacity in the United States?

By January 2000, the total U.S. installed wind energy capacity was 2500 MW. (See http://www.awea.org/faq/instcap.html) That's enough electricity to meet the needs of 600,000 to 800,000 typical U.S. homes.

WIND POWERING AMERICA

Nebraska

State Summary

Installedæ2.82 MW

In-State Wind Energy Potential
146,300 MW capacity after land use and environmental exclusions
244 kWh per year electric energy

Key Contacts

Nebraska Energy Office
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Nebraska Public Power District
Prairie Power Program
Michael Hasenkamp,
mahasen@nppd.com
http://www.nppd.com/general/wind/wind.htm

Lincoln Electric System
Renewable Energy Program
(402)475-4211
Russ Reno, rreno@les.com

Additional Resources

National Renewable Energy Laboratory
National Wind Technology Center
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401
(303) 384-6979
www.nrel.gov/wind

U.S. Department of Energy
Denver Regional Support Offices
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401
(303) 275-4826
http://www.eren.doe.gov/dro/

U.S. Department of Energy
Wind Energy Program
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585
(202) 586-5348
www.eren.doe.gov/wind

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